WELSH BOARD
23 JUN 1953
OF HEALTH
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PARISCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1952.

Officials:

Medical Officer of Health	...	W.W.Wilson, M.B.,CH.B.
Sanitary Inspector	...	G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1952

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District for the year 1952.

In preparing this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and have included all subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the Year

Area	31,414 acres.
Population (Census 1931) ...	2,149
Population (Census 1951) ...	1,872
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1952)	1,820
Number of inhabited houses ...	569

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.
Live births				
Legitimate	21	15	36	20.3
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Birth rate for England & Wales				15.3
Still births	2	0	2	1.09
Still birth rate for England & Wales				0.35
Deaths	8	14	22	12.08
Death rate for England & Wales				11.3
Maternal deaths	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality	0	0	0	0
Rate in England & Wales				27.6

Deaths from special causes:-

Tuberculosis	0.
Other infectious disease ...	0.
Malignant disease	1.
Respiratory disease	2.
Circulatory disease	10.
Other causes	9.

Area

The Rural District of Painscastle, which has an area of 31,414 acres forms part of the County of Radnor. The district is situated in the south east part of the County is an of an agricultural nature.

Population

Census 1931 ... 2,149
Census 1951 ... 1,872

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
1,750	1,872	1,908	1,884	1,856	1,820

The above yearly figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for midsummer of each year and apply only to the civilian population. The population was increasing up to 1949, but since than has steadily decreased.

Inhabited houses

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 569 giving an average number of 3.02 persons per house.

Births		Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	...	11	11	22	16.0
1948	...	14	17	31	16.5
1949	...	18	24	42	22.01
1950	...	18	9	27	14.3
1951	...	13	17	30	16.1
1952	...	22	15	37	20.3
	England & Wales 1952				15.3

It will be observed that the birth rate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England & Wales.

Deaths After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the nett number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below:-

		Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	...	7	6	13	12.0
1948	...	9	9	18	9.6
1949	...	11	12	23	12.05
1950	...	17	6	23	12.2
1951	...	9	16	25	13.4
1952	...	8	14	22	12.08
	England & Wales 1952				11.3

The death rate for 1952 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England & Wales but was less than the birth rate for the year.

Still births		Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	...	0	0	0	0
1948	...	1	0	1	0.42
1949	...	0	2	2	1.04
1950	...	0	0	0	0
1951	...	0	0	0	0
1952	...	2	0	2	1.09
	England & Wales 1952				0.35

The still birth rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England & Wales.

Infantile Mortality

This is the number of deaths occuring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1,000 live births.

		Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	...	1	0	1	36.0
1948	...	1	0	1	32.2
1949	...	0	0	0	0
1950	...	1	0	1	37.03
1951	...	1	1	2	66.6
1952	...	0	0	0	0
	England & Wales 1952				27.6

The infant mortality rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England & Wales.

Illegitimacy There was one illegitimate birth during the year.

Maternal Mortality There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Officers There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr.G.G.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and at Brecon, while any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Tydfil and Hereford Isolation Hospitals conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to Hospital.

Home Nursing Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council. There are three nurses resident in the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, of which Llandrindod Wells is the nearest some 27 miles away. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious diseases, are provided for at Hereford Hospital. A few cases are admitted at Brecon and Llandrindod Wells. For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers; provision is also made for free and cheap milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection, and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and the workings of the Factories Act which are included in this Section of the report.

During the year no acute shortage of water was experienced because of the inclement summer weather but the water situation is far from satisfactory.

The water scheme for the district submitted by your Consulting Engineer in 1947 made very little progress during the year.

WATER REPORT

Boughrood Parish

Twelve houses in the vicinity of Boughrood Bridge draw water from the Llyswen supply which is owned by the Hay Rural District Council.

The remaining houses have private supplies and in times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality "suspicious".

No progress has been made to the scheme known as the "Bostin" and since this is part of the major scheme it is difficult to understand why advantage has not been taken of this spring, which could easily supply the needs of the parish.

Bryngwyn Parish

One small supply in this parish is owned by the Council and an extension to improve the supply was carried out during the year. This improvement willassure a sufficient supply to the houses now being built and for the need of the new C.P.school which is to be erected by the Radnorshire Education Committee.

Apart from this supply this parish suffers greatly both from the domestic and agricultural need, but the scheme submitted by the Consulting Engineer will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

Clyro Parish

During the year a new pipe line was laid from the Service Reservoir to the springs and this will assure a better supply for the village of Clyro which consists of some 37 dwellings.

The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small piped supplies.

Glasbury Parish

Some 98 dwellings have piped supplies from the Service Reservoir owned by the Council and no shortage was experienced during the year.

The other 45 cottages together with 19 farm dwellings are served by small shallow wells, pumps, or small private piped supplies. The water from the shallow wells has to be carried for distances varying from 20 to 400 yards.

In the case of severe drought the domestic need suffers much more than the agricultural need.

Llanbedr-Painscastle Parish

This parish has one small private supply serving three farms and six cottages. The other properties in the parish have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanbwchllyn Lake and the sooner this scheme can be carried out the better for everyone.

Llandewifach Parish

This parish has no piped supplies and in times of drought the domestic need is the greater since the agricultural need can be met by the adjoining brook which is of service for stock purposes. There are 15 farms and 3 cottages in the parish. This parish can easily be supplied with water from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

Llandilo-graban Parish.

There are three small piped supplies in this parish. The other properties have small shallow wells and are all subject to pollution. This parish is in urgent need of a piped supply which would serve any new Council houses of which there is a demand in the parish and the only suitable source is Llanbwchllyn Lake.
There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in this parish.

Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings and 12 are served by a private supply laid on to each house. The other dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned for the other parishes. This parish could easily be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

Llowes Parish

The Council own a small undertaking in this parish which serves the hamlet of Llowes. The new water main laid in the village in 1951 has resulted in a much improved supply of water.

The remaining dwellings in the parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.

Water Sampling

During the year 39 samples from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

Satisfactory	...	20.
Suspicious	...	2.
Unsatisfactory	...	17.

Total number of inspections to water supplies .... 42.

Sewerage and Drainage

There are no sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district.

Number of visits to drainage work .... 14.

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection was continued during the year with a weekly collection in the parishes of Llanstephan, Boughrood, Glasbury, Llowes and Clyro. Monthly collections were given in the parishes of Bryngwyn, Llandilo-Graban and Llanbedr-Painscastle. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping at the Clyro Tip.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The sanitary inspection of the district was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector and the following details give information for the year:-

Nuisances:-	Number of complaints received	21.
	Number of complaints investigated	21.
	Number of premises inspected	51.
	Number of premises re-visited	3.
	Number of Preliminary Notices	1.

Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector 22.

Shops

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector 2.

Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district 2.
Number of inspections made 8.

Camping Sites

There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparation. Three notices were issued during the year in respect of verminous premises and one of these premises was disinfested by the Sanitary Inspector.

Rodent Control

One full time operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban and Hay Rural District Councils.

	1950	1951	1952
Number of premises inspected during the year	158	169	178
Number of premises found infested	53	26	33
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator	38	15	16
Number of premises treated by the occupier	15	11	17
Estimated number of rats killed in the year	546	357	164
Number of dead rats recovered in the year	155	119	27
Number of agricultural properties inspected	55	40	74
Number of agricultural properties infested	12	10	7
Number of agricultural properties treated	12	6	2

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING

No marked improvement was shown during the year on the condition of existing houses and no application was received for a Grant under the Housing Act 1949.

During the year four houses were completed by the Council in the parish of Llowes and the erection of 14 houses was commenced - 4 in the parish of Boughrood, 4 in the parish of Bryngwyn, 4 in the parish of Clyro and 2 in the parish of Llanstephan.

Some 41 dwellings on farms and smallholdings received assistance under the Hill Farming Act, 1946, during the year for improvements to the farm houses.

I am pleased to report that the electricity scheme proposed for the village of Llowes in 1950 has been carried out this year.

Number of house to house inspections carried out 32.

SECTION 6 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk On 1st. October 1949 the Milk & Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. Under this Act the licensing of producers and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Council is left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Number of milk samples taken during the year	9.
Number of samples satisfactory	9.
Number of samples unsatisfactory	Nil.

Meat There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's Slaughtering Point at Brecon.

No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Foods other than Meat

There were no foodstuffs condemned during the year.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district.

Ice-cream Premises

There are 2 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream but no manufacture of ice-cream is carried out.

No samples of ice-cream were examined during the year.

Fried Fish Shops

There are no fried fish shops in the district.

Wrapping of Food and Sale of Food in the open air

In this connection model byelaws were adopted by the Council during the year.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 8 cases of scarlet fever notified, ages ranging from 4 to 14 years. Pneumonia caused one death but this case was not notified.

Under the new Health Act all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are refunded by the County Council provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

Venereal Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital at Hereford for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

There were no cases of tuberculosis during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details of the district will be found below. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during school medical inspections.
There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year was 16.

The number of children who were given a secondary injection during the year was Nil.

Age Group	Number Immunised
Under 1 year.....	7
Age 1 year.....	7
Age 2 years.....	1
Age 3 years.....	1
Age 4 years.....	-
Age 5 - 9 years.....	-
Age 10 - 14 years.....	-
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I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. W. WILSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

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